

**ENTERED**

May 31, 2019

David J. Bradley, Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff-Respondent,	§	
	§	
V.	§	CRIMINAL ACTION NO. H-17-163
	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. H-18-3409
JOSHUA ROBERT BYRD,	§	
	§	
Defendant-Movant.	§	

**ORDER ADOPTING RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Pending is the Government's Response and Motion for Judgment on the Record (Document No. 62) against Joshua Robert Byrd's 28 U.S.C. § 2255 Motion to Vacate, Set Aside or Correct Sentence (Document No. 54). The Court has received from the Magistrate Judge a Memorandum and Recommendation recommending that the Government's Motion for Judgment on the Record be GRANTED and that Byrd's § 2255 motion be DENIED. Byrd has filed Objections (Document No. 66) to the Memorandum and Recommendation. The Court, after having made a *de novo* determination of the Government's Motion for Judgment on the Record, Byrd's § 2255 Motion, the Magistrate Judge's Memorandum and Recommendation, and Byrd's Objections thereto, is of the opinion that the findings and recommendations of the Magistrate Judge should be and hereby are accepted by the Court. Therefore,

It is ORDERED and ADJUDGED for the reasons set forth in the Memorandum and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge

entered on April 10, 2019, which is adopted in its entirety as the opinion of the Court, that the Government's Motion for Judgment on the Record (Document No. 62) is GRANTED, Byrd's § 2255 Motion to Vacate, Set Aside or Correct Sentence (Document No. 54) is DENIED, and this § 2255 proceeding is DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE. It is further

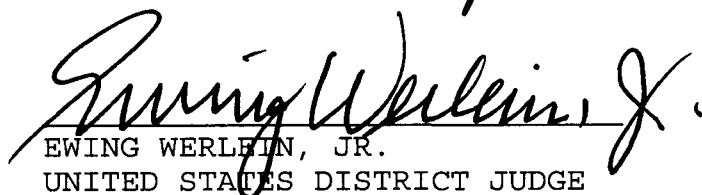
ORDERED that a certificate of appealability is DENIED. A certificate of appealability from a habeas corpus proceeding will not issue unless the petitioner makes "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). This standard "includes showing that reasonable jurists could debate whether (or, for that matter, agree that) the petition should have been resolved in a different manner or that the issues presented were adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further." Slack v. McDaniel, 120 S. Ct. 1595, 1603-1604 (2000) (internal quotations and citations omitted). Stated differently, where the claims have been dismissed on the merits, the petitioner "must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong." Id. at 1604; Beazley v. Johnson, 242 F.3d 248, 263 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir.), cert. denied, 122 S.Ct. 329 (2001). When the claims have been dismissed on procedural grounds, the petitioner must show that "jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of constitutional right and that jurists of

reason would find it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling." Slack, 120 S. Ct. at 1604. A district court may deny a certificate of appealability *sua sponte*, without requiring further briefing or argument. Alexander v. Johnson, 211 F.3d 895, 898 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000).

For the reasons set forth in the Memorandum and Recommendation, which has been adopted as the opinion of the Court, the Court determines that reasonable jurists would not find debatable the substantive or procedural determinations made herein. Thus, a certificate of appealability is DENIED.

The Clerk will enter this Order and send copies to all parties of record.

Signed at Houston, Texas this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

  
EWING WERLEIN, JR.  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE